



## *Division of Child Safety and Family Services*

**Janice K. Brewer**  
Governor

**Charles Flanagan**  
Director

<b>Information for Release</b>		5/29/2014
--------------------------------	--	-----------

**Date of the notification to DCSFS:** 3/18/2014

### **Near Fatality**

**Date of fatality or near fatality:** 3/18/2014

**Child's name:** Aria

**Age at time of incident:** 9 months

### **Alleged perpetrator(s) name and age:**

Destiny Archuleta – age 31

Scott Willeford – age 47

### **City, town or general location of residence of the child and alleged perpetrator(s):**

Tempe, Arizona

### **Circumstances of the fatality or near fatality that indicate it was the result of abuse or neglect:**

On March 18, 2014, nine-month-old Aria suffered life-threatening injuries after being mauled by the family's dog. Aria's parents, Destiny Archuleta and Scott Willeford, were aware that the dog was aggressive and had bitten others in the past, but continued to keep the dog in the home. Aria was home with her mother when the attack occurred.

### **Whether DCSFS has received any reports or past cases, of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child and the current alleged abusive or neglectful parent, guardian or custodian\*:**

DCSFS has received two prior reports involving Aria and/or Ms. Archuleta and Mr. Willeford:

On June 6, 2013, a report was made when both Aria and Ms. Archuleta tested positive for marijuana at Aria's birth. The report was investigated by DCSFS and it was determined that Ms. Archuleta had been issued a medical marijuana card that expired on May 9, 2013. Ms. Archuleta stated she had used some of her leftover marijuana since the card's expiration. The allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated.

On November 22, 2013, a report was made by an anonymous source stating when Aria is colicky Ms. Archuleta blows marijuana smoke in her face until she falls asleep. The report also alleged that Ms. Archuleta and Mr. Willeford are physically abusive with each other and sometimes punch each other while Aria is being held. The report was investigated by DCSFS and the Office of Child Welfare Investigations (OCWI) and the information was also provided to the Tempe Police Department. Aria was drug tested and was negative for marijuana. The allegations of neglect were unsubstantiated.

#### **1. Actions taken by DCSFS in response to the fatality or near fatality of the child including:**

The Office of Child Welfare Investigations (OCWI), assisted by DCSFS, conducted a joint investigation with the Tempe Police Department.

#### **2. Actions taken regarding the child and/or other children in the home:**



## *Division of Child Safety and Family Services*

**Janice K. Brewer**  
Governor

**Charles Flanagan**  
Director

Upon release from the hospital, Aria was placed in foster care. A sibling in the home was also placed in foster care.

### **3. Whether the agency is or intends to provide direct services or service referrals to the family:**

Services offered to the family include substance abuse counseling, parent aide services, psychological services, supervised visitation and case management.

\*Posted information provides whether there have been reports, or any current or past cases, of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child who has died or suffered a near fatality and the current alleged abusive or neglectful parent, guardian or custodian pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807(F)(2)(a)(iv).

\*Posted information may be updated as new information becomes available.

Information, if any, regarding the child and other family or household members, not specifically related to the fatality or near fatality, is not posted on the website. This also applies to information, if any, regarding the alleged perpetrator(s) and other family or household members.